

Morgantown Green Team: Minutes of the February 1, 2016 Meeting

Attending: *Green Team:* Joey James (Chair), Amanda Stoner (City Recycling Intern), Chelsi Baker (City Liaison), Holly Purpura (Friends of Decker's Creek), Jim Kotcon (Energy Committee), and Pam Cubberly (Green Nights and Green Morgantown). *Other:* Bill Kawecky (City Council), Ella Belling (Mon River Trail Conservancy), Jenny Selin (City Council), Jing Zhang (Morgantown-Monongalia Metropolitan Planning Organization), Judith Wilkinson, and Karen Kalafat.

I. Old Business

- A. Energy Efficiency Report.** Jim Kotcon recently reviewed the latest city energy efficiency report. Through the city's performance contract, Constellation Energy (CE) had previously installed energy-efficient lighting and HVAC controls for substantial savings for the city. The latest report on energy savings is difficult to evaluate, however. CE must assess in terms of what is promised and projected to happen, rather than what happened. CE says the city is saving 3% to 4% more than projected. The original tariff was 15% but there was a 29% increase, so CE is not reporting actual rates. Jim asked City Manager Jeff Mikorski to get the actual energy bills to evaluate.

Action: Jim will ask Chelsi Baker to follow-up on actual electricity bills from Mon power for 2014 and 2015, which entails a simple request from a city employee to Mon Power.

- B. Morgantown Lock and Dam.** Jim and Ella Belling reported on the hydropower proposal for the Morgantown Lock and Dam. FERC has moved to the final stage of its licensing for the hydropower facility. February 15th is the deadline for public comments. The Green Team should advise Jeff Mikorski to ensure that concerns about the impact on the rail-trail and associated recreational uses are considered.

Action: Jim and Ella will develop bullet points and ask Jeff Mikorski to submit them to FERC before February 15.

- C. Recycling follow-up.** Amanda Stoner was working on follow-up to last fall's recycling forum, including on grants the city could apply for in order to continue to improve and expand recycling in the city. The most important step was to advertise, recruit, and orient a new City Recycling Intern during the winter and spring before Amanda left for overseas this summer so that intern would be up to speed by the time Amanda leaves. Jim and Amanda had been unable to arrange for Jeff Mikorski to review the job description and the university deadline had passed for students to arrange for credit for the work this semester.

Action: *Jim Kotcon* said he would keep trying to get the job description approved by Jeff Mikorski. Chelsi said she could walk in and ask for Jeff's verbal approval if Jim could get the description to her.

Action: *Amanda Stoner* agreed to move forward on grant funding and a meeting of a working group on recycling. She will send out an email to those who had expressed interest at the meeting last fall.

Action: *Chelsi Baker* agreed to ask *Tom Arnold* to come to the March Green Team meeting who may be able to get on Republic Services to move forward on a brochure for residents on proper recycling

and a sticker for recycling bins listing what was okay to recycle. Chelsi also said she would also work to update the city's webpage on what and how to recycle.

Action: If any team member had a copy of the old recycling brochure that Republic used to distribute, they should get it to Chelsi Baker.

D. Sustainable Morgantown Initiative. Joey reported that the Morgantown Solar Co-op was finishing up installation of solar panels at 23 different households in the Morgantown area, representing 141 kWh of power or now 5% of total solar power installations in the state.

E. Year to Go Green. Much work has been accomplished in just one month in order to launch the YTGG:

- Held a working lunch meeting on January 15 attended by Joey, Holly, Pam, Jim, Jenny, Chelsi, and Jing.
- Presented (Joey and Holly) the YTGG "vision" to City Council on January 26.
- Organized (Joey with support from Pam, Holly, and Karan Ireland of WV SUN) a February 22nd *Celebration of Sustainability* in honor of completion of the first Morgantown Solar Co-op with 23 households installing panels; successes to date of the city's Sustainable Morgantown Initiative; and city launch of the 2016 Year to Go Green: A Path to a Cleaner Morgantown.
- Arranged (Holly) for FODC interns to assist in a variety of ways, including WVU student Nathan Spencer who developed a YTGG logo (attached), among other projects, and a writer for YTGG columns in various media.
- Developed (Holly, Joey, and Pam) comprehensive email lists of individuals, officials, groups, agencies, other institutions, and media; a letter for signature by Mayor Shamberger (attached) asking for participation in the Year to Go Green; media advisory and flyer (attached) to announce the February 22 event; and a "We Support the Year to Go Green" (attached).
- Began to organize (Holly) two winter-spring community forums, part of a yearlong series, the first on Thursday, March 10 to focus on energy usage by Morgantown businesses.
- Began outreach to specific community groups and institutions (Pam, Holly, and Joey), beginning with Mon County public schools, neighborhood associations, Mountain Leadership School, League of Women Voters, WVU Office of Sustainability, National Energy Technology Laboratory (NETL), among others.
- Began organizing (Pam) the Third Annual Green Households Fair, scheduled for Saturday, April 23, cosponsored by the Morgantown Farmers Market and Morgantown Public Library to be held at Morgantown Marketplace in association with the first outdoor farmers market of the year.
- Began organizing a series of "How-To" workshops to be held throughout the year on rain barrels (Holly for FODC and MUB) and possibly composting, homemade household products, beekeeping, chicken raising, among others (Pam) if resource people agree to participate.

Throughout the month, Chelsi Baker also provided *essential advice, support, and review* to YTGG organizers.

Actions: Various team members indicated they would help get the word out on the February 22 Celebration of Sustainability. *Chelsi Baker* planned to promote YTGG in general city information and publicity; send out the mayor's letter to the list provided by Holly, Joey, and Pam; and send out the media advisory a week before the event to get coverage.

II. New Business

New visitors Karen Kalafat and Judith Wilkinson introduced themselves and briefly described their interest in learning more about the Green Team. Karen recently moved from Denver to take graduate courses at WVU. She received certification as a LEED certifier and is interested in behavioral workshops on energy efficiency.

III. The meeting concluded at 6:55pm.

Next meeting: March 7, 5:30pm to 7:00pm, in City Council Chambers at 389 Spruce Street.

Attachment A: Letter from Mayor Shamberger on YTGG



The City of Morgantown

300 SPRUCE STREET
MORGANTOWN, WEST VIRGINIA 26505
(304) 284-7435
www.morgantown.com



Dear Friend:

On January 4, 2016, the Morgantown City Council unanimously declared 2016 to be the **"Year to Go Green: Path to a Cleaner Morgantown."**

Initially formed by the Morgantown Municipal Green Team and Friends of Deckers Creek, the proposal for this yearlong citywide focus on clean air, clean water, clean energy, and green space was created with the goal of opening dialogue across the community and unifying efforts to further sustainability across Morgantown. We expect the range of events and activities planned will result in benefits for our environment, our health, and our economy.

I am writing to invite you to participate in this community-wide effort to build on past successes and lay the basis for further progress toward a cleaner Morgantown. Individuals, households, businesses, community groups, city committees and advisory boards, and other organizations can join in the effort in a number of ways:

- **Contribute to a compilation of the city's accomplishments** in becoming a cleaner, safer, healthier, and greener city in the past few decades
- **Speak or participate in a series of YTGG community forums** throughout the year to engage the Morgantown community on a range of current issues.
- **Hold activities or events**—or shape those already planned—to help promote the environmental sustainability of our air, water, energy, and/or land.
- **Educate the community** by supplying information and articles regarding how homes and businesses can reduce their environmental impacts in YTGG-sponsored venues—such as newspaper columns, magazine articles, or the city's Facebook group "Green Morgantown."

For more information on how you and your group can participate in the Year to Go Green and how you can find out what others are already starting to do:

- **Visit the "Year to Go Green" webpage and Calendar:**
<http://www.morgantownwv.gov/yeartogogreen/>
- **Join us on Facebook:** Green Morgantown (www.facebook.com/groups/greenmorgantown)
- **Contact YTGG Organizers:**

Holly Purpura, Executive Director
Friends of Deckers Creek
holly@deckerscreek.org
304-292-3970

Pamela Cubberly
Morgantown Municipal Green Team
pamela@cubberly.net
703-463-7643

We hope you will discuss with your organization how it can participate in this important focus on the environment in Morgantown in the coming year and contact us soon.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads 'Marti Shamberger'.

Mayor Marti Shamberger



IN HONOR OF...

Completion of Morgantown's 1st Solar Co-op!

Successes of the Sustainable Morgantown Initiative!

City Declaration of Morgantown's 2016 Year to Go Green!

West Virginia SUN ● **Downstream Strategies** ● **Friends of Deckers Creek**
and the Morgantown Municipal Green Team

CORDIALLY INVITE YOU TO

A CELEBRATION OF SUSTAINABILITY

Monday, February 22, 2016 ● 7:00–9:00pm

Arts Monongahela
201 High St. Suite 3
Morgantown, WV 26505



Morgantown
Municipal
Green Team

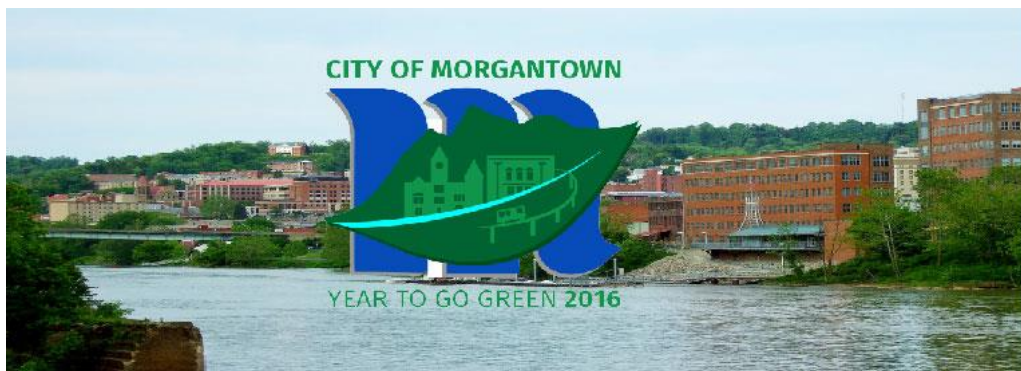
No RSVP required ● Contribution Requested for Refreshments
For more information, call Joey James at 304-292-2450 or jjames@downstreamstrategies.com
Photo credit: Zverzver at wts.wikivoyage

Attachment C: Year to Go Green Logo, Facebook Banner, and Business Window Placard

CITY OF MORGANTOWN



YEAR TO GO GREEN 2016



We Support the

CITY OF MORGANTOWN



YEAR TO GO GREEN 2016

[www.morgantownwv.gov/
yeartogogreen](http://www.morgantownwv.gov/yeartogogreen)